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New York judge fines Trump, firm \$355 m

Trump's businesses run by his sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr were ordered to pay \$4 million each and a former CFO was asked to pay \$1 million for inflating wealth on financial statements. Trump will have to pay interest from when he received benefits from his frauds, which could add another \$100 million to his bills. His lawyers have said they will appeal

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EXPRESS READ

Kejri may not appear before ED, says court

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday granted exemption to CM Arvind Kejriwal from appearance for the day in connection with a plaint filed by ED against him, over non-compliance with summons. **P10**

Live-in relationship to be out of Central UCC draft document

It doesn't fall within code's purview: Official

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

IN a significant departure from the Uttarakhand model, the proposed central law on the Uniform Civil Code is unlikely to go into the question of live-in relationships as it doesn't fall within the UCC's purview, highly placed sources in the law ministry said.

The Uttarakhand code proposed mandatory registration of live-in relationships and stringent punishment for violators, spurring public debate on privacy and personal liberty.

Sources said that senior members of the Law Commission are not in favour of bringing in live-in relationships under the ambit of the UCC bill. The 22nd Law Commission of India is tasked with drafting a nationwide UCC, a long-time poll promise of the BJP.

Members of the commission believe that the Uttarakhand code legalised live-in relations through compulsory registration, which is counter-productive, said sources. "The institution of marriage is sacrosanct and live-in relationships cannot replace it. The UCC is about

common family law for all religious communities on matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance and succession. Co-habitation doesn't come under the purview of the UCC.

But the Uttarakhand UCC has given it a status of marriage now," said the top official.

The official pointed out that live-in relationships are currently referenced under the 2005 Domestic Violence Act, as domestic relationships. The law also has provisions for maintenance now. "In the Uttarakhand UCC, a child born from such a registered live-in relationship will be treated as legitimate," he said. While some BJP-ruled states are already mulling their own UCC bills by using the Uttarakhand model, the official said it will give rise to constitutional complexities. "Though states can enact some of the personal laws, the central law prevails in some cases," he said.

The Uttarakhand code mandates that persons in live-ins inform the registrar within a month of the relationship, else they could face a jail term of up to three months, a fine of up to ₹10,000, or both.

EXCLUSIVE National narrative

The BJP plans to push a national UCC narrative in the general election. Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said a secular country cannot have religion-based civil codes.

ANOTHER BJP WIN WILL MAKE MODI A DICTATOR: KHARGE

VINCENT D' SOUZA @Mangaluru

THE Congress sounded its Lok Sabha poll bugle in the BJP stronghold of Mangaluru on Saturday with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launching a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a mammoth Congress convention, Kharge appealed to people to defeat Modi's BJP in the coming Lok Sabha elections, stating that he will become a dictator if the party wins again and there will be no elections in the country in future.

Kharge accused Modi of try-

ing to take control of the judiciary, media, and ED and I-T departments and asked people not to make him powerful. The country will progress only if Congress is made powerful, he said.

Slamming the Centre for freezing the AICC's bank accounts, he said the accounts have Congress workers' hard-earned money. He accused the BJP of taking Rs 6,000 crore from black money hoarders.

Stating that Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts benefited the most from the Tenancy Act introduced by Indira Gan-

dhi, Kharge rued that the people of these districts have forgotten it and have joined hands with the saffron party.

Referring to BJP flags put up in Mangaluru, he sought to know if people here got Rs 15 lakh in their bank accounts, jobs and development as promised by Modi.

He said, "You have forgotten our past achievements. At least you remember our six guarantees. These guarantees have awakened Modi. He has also started promising guarantees. But what happened to his old guarantees (promises)?" **P5**



PM Narendra Modi hoists BJP's flag during the BJP National Council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday | **PH**

Modi drills 370 into BJP, gears it up for LS polls

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi on Saturday sought to add sentimental value to the party's target of 370 seats in the Lok Sabha polls. "Winning 370 seats would be a tribute to party idealogue Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee who made the ultimate sacrifice for the abrogation of Article 370 and preserving Bharat's unity and integrity," Modi said, addressing the party's national office-bearers at their two-day national council meet.

Modi urged office-bearers to intensify their poll campaign around pro-poor work, and to in-

form people how the government worked on the Ram temple in Ayodhya, brought bills ensuring quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

"Addressed the @BJP4India National Office Bearers. Complimented every Party Karyakarta for their exceptional efforts to serve people. Discussed ways to deepen our Party's grassroots level connect across all sections of society. Over the last decade, BJP has made a mark as a party of development and good governance. Our schemes, initiatives and reforms have transformed several lives," Modi posted on X.

JOLT TO CONG

Nath in Delhi amid buzz on joining BJP

ANURAAG SINGH @bhopal

FORMER Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath and his first-time MP son Nakul Nath suddenly flew to New Delhi on Saturday afternoon, further fuelling speculation about the Congress veteran ending his decades-long association with the party and joining the BJP.

However, senior MP Congress leaders, including Digvijaya Singh and state party chief Jitu Patwari, dubbed the speculation as baseless. Nath has not confirmed the speculation and told journalists in Delhi, "Why

are you so excited? You'll be the first ones to know if anything like what you are saying (joining BJP) happens."

Sources said the rift between Nath and the party high command has widened since the party's 2023 assembly poll defeat. Though Nath was in constant touch with Sonia Gandhi and was expecting a Rajya Sabha ticket, the Congress chose state party treasurer Ashok Singh as its candidate.

Nath loyalist Sajjan Singh Verma said, "Only three things matter in politics — *Maan*, *Samman* and *Swabhiman* (respect and self-pride). When these are hurt, a leader is bound to take a major political decision."



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